

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: T.W. Urbanek Attorney Docket No.: LAMA122548

Title: PROPPANTS AND THEIR MANUFACTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

March 19, 2004

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to examination.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A proppant, comprising:
a particulate sol-gel ceramic having a roundness and compressive strength suitable for use as a proppant.
2. (Original) The proppant of claim 1 in which the particulate sol-gel ceramic is made from an aluminosilicate.
3. (Original) The proppant of claim 2 in which the particulate sol-gel ceramic is made from a geopolymer.
4. (Original) The proppant of claim 2 in which the particulate sol-gel ceramic is made by blending, forming, and curing aluminosilicates at temperatures below 200°C.
5. (Original) The proppant of claim 4 in which the particulate sol-gel ceramic is made by blending, forming, and curing aluminosilicates at temperatures below 80°C.
6. (Original) The proppant of claim 1 in which the particulate sol-gel ceramic is made from phosphates and metal oxides.

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